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WKU Student Affairs

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RESTAURANT TO MAKE LAST STAND | PAGE 3



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WKU faces \$2.3 million budget deficit

Emslie: Cuts won't result in faculty, staff layoffs

By **MIKE STUNSON**
news@chherald.com

WKU is preparing for budget cuts for the 2012 fiscal year, but at Thursday's University Senate meeting Gordon Emslie, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said no WKU faculty or staff member would suffer "involuntary termination" as a result of the cuts.

WKU is looking at a \$2.3 million deficit, and Emslie said there will be a 1.1 to 1.6 percent cut in budgets in various colleges.

"We were unable to replace all of the federal stimulus money," Emslie said. "With the disappearance of some of that money, we got put in a hole."

The federal stimulus money WKU has been receiving through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will expire June 30. WKU received a total of \$5.4 million in stimulus funds through the act. To compensate for the loss of stimulus money, budget cuts are necessary, Emslie said.

SEE **BUDGET**, PAGE 3

Senate passes bill for physical therapy program

By **CAITLIN CARTER**
news@chherald.com

Soon, pre-physical therapy students at WKU may not have to leave the area to receive their doctorate.

Last week, Senate Bill 130, which would create a doctoral degree in the physical therapy program at WKU, was approved by the Senate, 34-2, during the Kentucky General Assembly, said Robbin Taylor, vice president for Public Affairs.

The bill will allow universities across the state of Kentucky to offer up to three advanced practice doctorate degree programs, Taylor said.

She said WKU is considering the doctor of physical therapy program, the educational leadership doctoral program and the doctor of nursing practice, among other programs.

Taylor said the next step in the legislative process is moving the bill through the House of Representatives within the next two weeks.

SEE **SENATE**, PAGE 5



DANNY GUY/HERALD

Junior outfielder Kes Carter embraces a fan after the game against Bowling Green State on Saturday at Nick Denes Field. WKU won 8-7.

Play ball

Baseball returns at right time for WKU athletics

By **EMILY PATTON**
sports@chherald.com

Junior Will Higdon leaned against the wood railing at Nick Denes Field on Friday, watching the Toppers play on Opening Day.

Overcast skies and scattered showers delayed the first pitch of the 2011 season by 32 minutes, but that didn't keep Higdon and nearly 700 other fans from seeing the action.

The Owensboro native said having baseball season back is "a breath of fresh air" for the athletics programs here at WKU.

"You know, the weather isn't pretty, but it's still baseball," Higdon said.

That thought seemed to be echoed by the combined 2,123 fans that ventured out to the ballpark this weekend for the Toppers' three-game sweep of Bowling Green State, including Owensboro junior Skyler Shown.

"I think the atmosphere here is getting better and better, especially now that they get to play at the Hot Rods stadium," Shown said. "I think last year a lot of



DANNY GUY/HERALD

Big Red munches on the arm of Indianapolis freshman Lindsay Spears at the game against Bowling Green State on Saturday at Nick Denes Field. "I'm not creeped out by him," she said. "I really like him."

people who hadn't seen them play got to see them play. There is a new hype surrounding the program now."

SEE **RETURNS**, PAGE 2

Trumpet player 'getting excitement in Diddle'



CHRIS WILSON/HERALD

"Super trumpet" player Kevin Goodnight, a senior from Bowling Green, performs in the pep band at a men's basketball game in Diddle Arena. Goodnight is known for sneaking into the stands among fans with his trumpet and playing a distinctive solo to the song "Vehicle" by The Ides of March late in the second half of WKU home games.

By **JONATHAN LINTNER**
news@chherald.com

Kevin Goodnight's rise as the "super trumpet" in WKU's pep band began just as his solo goes at the last media timeout of most men's basketball games — an improv of the planned act.

Goodnight arrived late to a game at Diddle Arena during the spring of 2005 and entered through the tunnel opposite where the pep band was already playing. But instead of quietly joining the rest of the band's trumpet players, he blasted into song across the arena.

"I came in and started playing and working my way around," Goodnight said. "The crowd went crazy, and ever since then I've done it."

Goodnight, now 24 years old and a sixth-year senior majoring in instrumental music education, has made a tradition out of his solo from the 1970

song "Vehicle" by The Ides of March.

"If we're down a couple points, four or five minutes left, the crowd is hurting and just sitting there — I go and play that song, and the crowd just erupts," Goodnight said. "It erupts with madness."

The solo has become a pep band tradition to the point that "Vehicle" is known as "Goodnight's Song," said Lamar Moore, Hopkinsville senior, a tuba player in the pep band.

Moore said much of what makes the solo special is that by performing it from the stands, Goodnight brings the crowd closer to the band, both figuratively and literally.

"He improves over the solo," Moore said. "He makes it funny. You can hear it in his playing."

SEE **TRUMPET**, PAGE 3

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Fill in the grid so that every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9 with no repeats. Solutions, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com.

CRIME REPORTS

Arrests

■ Nicholas Osting, Pearce-Ford Tower, was arrested Feb. 20 for possession of marijuana. He was released yesterday morning.

■ Chase Tate and Jordan Sandwith, both of Barnes-Campbell Hall, were arrested Feb. 20 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. They were both released yesterday morning.

■ John Gifford, Bowling Green, was arrested on Feb. 19 for alcohol intoxication after trying to cause a disturbance at Hilligans. He was released yesterday morning.

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calendar

The Herald publishes a calendar in print every Tuesday and online every day. Submit your events to calendar@chherald.com. Deadline for the Tuesday print calendar is noon Monday. For more events visit wkuherald.com/calendar

tuesday

College Bowl for Kids' Sake
Downing University Center 4th floor, 4 to 9 p.m.
Bowling fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky
Student Government Association senate meeting. DUC 305, 5 p.m.
Kentucky Poet Frank X. Walker: "Isaac Murphy: I Dedicate This Ride"
DUC 340, 6 p.m.
Part of Black History Month events

thursday

Black Classic Film Series: "Ethnic Notions," DUC 340, 6 p.m.
Part of Black History Month events
Men's Basketball vs. Florida International
Diddle Arena, 7 p.m.
WKU Theatre presents "Khamaseen"
FAC theatre, 8 p.m., \$11 adults/\$9 students
A play set in present-day Cairo, Egypt, that explores a culture-shocked American woman's triumph.
Sunburst Youth Theatre presents "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"
Phoenix Theatre, 545 Morris Alley, 7 p.m., \$13 adults/\$10 students and seniors

saturday

Community Bowl for Kids' Sake
Southern Lanes, 2710 Scottsville Road, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bowling fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky
WKU Theatre presents "Khamaseen"
FAC theatre, 8 p.m., \$11 adults/\$9 students
Sunburst Youth Theatre presents "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"
Phoenix Theatre, 545 Morris Alley, 8 p.m., \$13 adults/\$10 students and seniors

wednesday

Softball vs. Eastern Kentucky
Softball complex, 1 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. Florida International
Diddle Arena, 7:30 p.m.

friday

Winter Jam Concert featuring Soulja Boy, Ray J and Yo Gotti
Diddle Arena, 7 p.m., \$20-\$35
The Symphony at WKU presents "Some Old, Some New"
Van Meter Hall, 8 p.m., \$22 adults/\$5 students
Featuring the works of composers Handel, Schubert and Ravel
WKU Theatre presents "Khamaseen"
FAC theatre, 8 p.m., \$11 adults/\$9 students
Sunburst Youth Theatre presents "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"
Phoenix Theatre, 545 Morris Alley, 8 p.m., \$13 adults/\$10 students and seniors

sunday

Community Bowl for Kids' Sake
Southern Lanes, 2710 Scottsville Road, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Bowling fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky
Guest Vocalist: Antonio Giuliano, tenor
FAC 189, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
WKU Theatre presents "Khamaseen"
FAC theatre, 3 p.m., \$11 adults/\$9 students
Sunburst Youth Theatre presents "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"
Phoenix Theatre, 545 Morris Alley, 3 p.m., \$13 adults/\$10 students and seniors

RETURNS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The continued partnership between WKU and the Bowling Green Hot Rods has also led to an increased excitement for the season.

WKU will play at Bowling Green Ballpark on April 5 against Louisville and again on April 19 against Kentucky.

Athletics Director Ross Bjork said with a winter season that didn't bring much success, baseball comes at a great time.

"Football, we are on the right track," Bjork said at Sunday's game. "Yeah, we struggled in basketball, but we'll get it going. History speaks for itself there. We'll be fine, but yes, welcome baseball.

"I think people always look forward to baseball, because one, it's outside, and two, our program is really evolving, growing and flourishing under Coach (Chris) Finwood. Winning does help a lot of things."

The Toppers saw national success last season, reaching as high as No. 18 in the country with wins over Tennessee, Vanderbilt and Texas A&M.

Bjork said the Toppers' success last year is what is bringing more fans out early, because they hope to see it again.

"Based on what people have told me was happening seven to eight to 10 years ago, this place was empty," Bjork said.



Our program is really evolving, growing and flourishing."

—ROSS BJORK
WKU Athletic Director

"Last year, we averaged just under a thousand for each game, and then at the Hot Rods, we saw 6,100 at that game. To me, there's no question that fans are excited, and you see it on a day like today."

But to Kim Dykes, mother of junior third baseman Casey Dykes, fans are putting their last hopes for this athletics season on the baseball team.

"We feel the pressure that the attention is on this sport now," Dykes said. "Our sons are feeling it too, but I think they internalize it more than we do as parents."

Dykes said the position the baseball team is in now is not a bad thing, but a chance to make the program grow even more.

"They are working to make the program grow and improve," Dykes said. "Having our sons being freshmen, sophomores and now juniors during this time is great. But it was the ones before them that helped set this program up where it's at now. The boys are happy and excited, and so are the parents."

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•Laborer

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Taco restaurant nears its last stand

By KATHERINE WADE
news@chherald.com

Students can expect a new restaurant brand, among other changes, to come to WKU dining by next fall.

Tim Colley, district manager for ARAMARK and the WKU Restaurant and Catering Group, said some changes would be made in the Downing University Center food court this summer, including a new eating option.

Taco’s Last Stand has not been as well-received as they hoped when it opened, Colley said.

“I think it is a name thing,” he said. “We have received positive impact from people who have tried it. But students aren’t going here because it’s just not Taco Bell.”

Allison Feikes, a freshman from La Porte, Ind., said she ate at Taco’s Last Stand once at the beginning of the year but doesn’t eat there regularly. She said she’d be excited to see a new brand in DUC.

“I would definitely prefer something else there,” she said. “I usually go to DUC because it’s the closest to my dorm, so I look forward to something new there.”

Taco Bell, which had an outlet in the DUC food court until three years ago, left because of a contractual issue, Colley said. He has since tried to bring it back but hasn’t succeeded yet.

Colley didn’t want to reveal the new dining option until a contract had been signed.

ARAMARK, a company that provides food services to colleges and universities, is also planning on putting in its newest campus convenience store, known as Provisions on Demand, in the new parking garage being built on the corner of 13th Avenue and Kentucky Street.

Colley said the store would benefit residents of the apartments intended to wrap the garage, as well as students living on the north end of campus.

“The plans have been drawn up, and now we’re just waiting for the garage to be built,” he said.

The store would feature “grab ’n go dining options for breakfast, lunch or any time of day ... as well as fresh produce, bakery and coffee selections and traditional essentials found in a convenience store,” according to the ARAMARK website.

Aramark has just started another proj-



JERRY ENGLEHART JR./HERALD
Roman Rippeteau, a freshman from Hendersonville, Tenn., orders food from Taco's Last Stand at the Downing University Center Food Court on Monday.

ect, Colley said, called MarketMATCH. MarketMATCH is a 16-week research process that takes an in-depth look at how to best serve their clients.

“They talk to the president, faculty, staff, students, even high school students,

and find out what they’d like to see happen with dining,” Colley said.

At the end of the report, MarketMATCH provides a five- to six-year plan to guide the university’s dining service.

TRUMPET

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Goodnight said he doesn’t have a favorite spot in Diddle Arena to perform the solo. But once he settles on a section at each game, he acts as “ignorant” as he can to get nearby fans to have fun.

He said nerves aren’t a problem, even when it comes to playing in front of thousands of people. Goodnight has been involved in band and singing in choir for about 15 years and said the solo is second nature.

“I try to play as loud as I can, so I do simple improving things to it — not much — just so I can play it loud,” he said.

The late-game push for energy in the stands has produced positive results on the court. Before this season, when WKU started 0-4 in the Sun Belt Conference for the first time ever, the Toppers hadn’t lost more than four home games in a season since Goodnight started playing “Vehicle.”

WKU fan Cody Sparks, a senior from Beaver Dam, said this season he’s started to appreciate Goodnight’s solo more. Sparks said he tries to make it to every WKU home game, and he sits in or near the front row of the student

section. “Getting excitement in Diddle right now is hard to come by, so as much as we can get it, it helps,” Sparks said.

Part of the full Goodnight experience is finding the heavy-set trumpet player and his can’t-miss afro in the upper sections of Diddle Arena, Sparks said.

“If we look over at the band and don’t see him, we know he’s somewhere above,” Sparks said. “It’s kind of cool to try to pinpoint him.”

Jeff Bright, associate director of bands, said he noticed Goodnight’s leadership potential during the summer of 2007, Bright’s first at WKU, when Goodnight came to see him in his office before he had even met the band.

Bright said that’s one of the reasons that when attention is put on one person rather than the band as a whole — such as Goodnight’s solo — he sees no problem with it.

“Kevin was just very interested,” Bright said. “I think there are certain individuals who have an investment in the ensemble, and so they want it to be successful. He’s certainly one of those students.”

As Goodnight finishes up his undergraduate degree at WKU, he has been student teaching music at Butler County High School for course credit and working at the Walmart deli to pay



Getting excitement in Diddle right now is hard to come by, so as much as we can get it, it helps.”

—CODY SPARKS
Beaver Dam senior

the bills.

He plans to graduate in May, and he said the rumor is that the pep band will retire “Vehicle” at that point. But the Bowling Green native and Warren East High School graduate might not be done as a WKU student just yet.

Goodnight is deciding between a master’s degree in either education or conducting and looking for a job. He’ll take whichever comes first and said two more seasons with the pep band — and “Vehicle” — would be in order were he to continue his education at WKU.

“I think a couple other people have tried to play it, but they’re not that heard,” Goodnight said. “I can fill up that room with sounds.”

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“We knew the state wasn’t able to replace all of the stimulus money,” Faculty Regent Patti Minter said. “The money would have to come from somewhere.”

The budget cuts were first mentioned at the Board of Regents meeting on Jan. 21. Minter said many people left that meeting without a clear understanding of the proposed cuts.

“It’s funny because it’s been a real stealth budget cut,” Minter said. “A lot of people haven’t necessarily known about it yet except for some of the departments hit hard.”

Emslie said all of the deans have been informed of the cuts. It would be up to the deans to forward the

message to department heads.

The biggest chunk of the \$2.3 million reduction will come from Academic Affairs, Budget Director Kim Reed said. That division will see about a \$1.5 million cut.

Minter talked to a few of the departments that have been affected.

“They were very troubled, not only about next year but for the future as well,” Minter said.

Although Emslie said there will be no layoffs due to the budget cuts, Minter said job searches have been halted.

“The provost puts a positive spin on the cuts with no involuntary firings,” she said. “But we have had to stop searches for positions that were ongoing, and some were in very popular majors.”

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Buying fair

'International reach' can be reality by supporting fair-trade

THE ISSUE: WKU could do more to prove itself as a university with the best interest of international partners in mind.

OUR STANCE: Administrators should accept the Student Government Association's bill to declare WKU a fair-trade university.

We've all heard and seen the infamous tagline: WKU is a leading American university with international reach. That's a great aspiration, but the SGA's recent bill to support purchasing fair-trade items for campus would make it more of a solid reality.

Sure, there are efforts in place now that aim to fulfill the globalization goal — a diverse international student presence, Chinese Flagship and other exchange programs — but declaring WKU a fair-trade institution would take international reach to a higher, less superficial level.

Fair-trade dealings are important because they imply more than academic excellence. Supporting the bill would show that WKU not only seeks to cultivate international students' education (ultimately for our nation's benefit), but also that the university cares about the everyday people in developing countries, whose farmers and manufacturers work hard to provide things we need to sustain our campus life.

Fair trade would ensure a fair price for international goods and services. It would be an expensive measure, but it would also mean WKU is committed to showing that international reach is more than just a slogan on the school's website. And purchasing fair-trade items for campus eateries and the WKU store is very doable.

Furthermore, enabling fair trade would be a chance for WKU to lead in a new area of university

trends and social responsibility. There are only three institutions in the U.S. that have declared themselves fair-trade schools. The campus has done a good job with energy conservation and LEED-certified building adjustments, and this would be another advancement in setting the university apart.

It is unreasonable to think WKU could ever reach the point where all products on campus were fair-trade items. But the fair-trade coffee and tea and the chocolate brand in the Pit Stop are a good start. And supporting the SGA Bill would be the next step in defining WKU as a leading university with international reach in an accurate, long-term and tangible way.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's 10-member editorial board.

the VENT

Something on your mind? Let it out. E-mail us at opinion@chherald.com.



DAVE CHRISTOPHER
Louisville senior

"People should really support Louisville and Bowling Green comedy more. Laughter eases the mind, so when I think of things to share, I really try to make people feel better."



JASMINE VINSON
Indianapolis sophomore

"I'm glad the weather has been better lately. It makes people want to be on campus more, and I like to communicate with all kinds of people, so I love it."



JOHN RITTER
Bowling Green senior

"I'm tired of having to go through FAC because of construction. It's nearly unavoidable when I walk up the Hill."

have an opinion?

Write a letter to the editor (250 words or less) or a commentary (500 words and a photo). E-mail them to opinion@chherald.com.

COMMENTARY

Campus Notebook supports laziness

Have you noticed the influx of e-mails from The Campus Notebook? I generally delete e-mails that have nothing to do with my current classes; however, I can't ignore the fact that these invitations are supporting a bad cause.

The Campus Notebook advertises that you can submit your class notes and get paid every time someone downloads them for free. I have a problem with companies that cater to the laziness of students. We are here to get an education, not to simply make the grade, though the bulk of importance has been placed on the latter.

I have a problem with people who skip class or are constantly late to class, not to mention the occasional truant who walks in with fresh Starbucks when they actually decide to come. I can't remember how many times I have been distracted by people walking into class late, or by those select few who play games

or browse Facebook the entire time class is in session.

These e-mails offer money to those who are diligent and attend class in exchange for their personal class notes. As



SPENCER WILLIS
Louisville senior

nice as the offer is, do we, the hard-working students, really want to support those who don't pay attention in class? It is not only the students that are on their computers playing Dungeons and Dragons or FarmVille that would benefit from these free notes, but also those who don't even

show up. If you are so unconcerned with your own advancement in your classes, maybe you should do those who are here to learn a favor and drop out.

I may be a little biased because I am an education major, and I have a problem with the level of blatant disrespect some students have for professors. I am not afraid to admit that I never share my notes with anyone. This is not because I am selfish, but because I expect those around me to be self-sufficient.

The Campus Notebook may also support those who want to supplement the notes they already have, but rarely do people who actually attend all of their classes need help. There are resources on campus such as The Learning Center that can help if you are struggling academically. Don't support this ridiculous organization that is catering to the lazy leeches who bring down the academic integrity of this university.

This commentary doesn't necessarily represent the views of the Herald or the university.



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Emslie institutes new faculty, staff travel policy

By ELIZABETH BEILMAN
news@chherald.com

Faculty or staff in the academic division must be approved in advance for university-related travel as of Feb. 15.

Gordon Emslie, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, said the requirement helps Academic Affairs “keep things in order.”

“When someone is traveling, it is useful, for both us and them, that it is official travel,” Emslie said. “We need to know it’s official travel, and that it’s not basically a vacation day. We need to know the difference.”



EMSLIE

Emslie said benefits of the new policy include protection from the university and confirmation to Academic Affairs that faculty or staff members are performing the obligations of their job.

Emslie said he came up with the policy when he found WKU did not already have one, while most other universities do.

“This is not aimed at adjusting any problems,” he said.

He said if faculty or staff members know they will be taking day trips to certain places multiple times throughout the year, they can fill out a “blanket approval” form.

If a professor knows he or she will be routinely traveling to Frankfort and trips will not be overnight, for example, they fill out one form for the whole year.

“We’re going to assume if they’re in Frankfort, they’re on official travel,” Emslie said.

All travel, including overseas, will now go directly to Academic Affairs to be approved by the office of the provost under the new requirement, said Tom Millington, director of Study Abroad and Global Learning.

Joel Turner, assistant professor of political science, travels to Washington, D.C., every year to attend the Conservative Political Action Conference with a group of students.

Turner said because he traveled before Feb. 15, he was not required to get approval from the office of Academic Affairs.

“We looked into it, but our trip was ahead of when we had to do any paperwork,” Turner said.

However, Turner said he will have to get approval before the trip in the coming years.

TICKET

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

But that doesn’t change the fact that the team produced in a big way for a fan base that just wants to see some success, no matter what the venue.

“I don’t think people realize how just having a good crowd in the stands and having a good atmosphere makes our guys feel first class,” Finwood said. “I think it makes us play better.”

It also makes Topper fans forget the combined 27-38 record that football, men’s basketball and women’s basketball have posted so far this school year.

And things should only get better from here.

Only Louisville’s trip to Diddle

Arena has sparked more sports buzz on campus in the last year than baseball’s drumming of Kentucky at Bowling Green Ballpark in 2010, and thousands will head downtown again this year when both in-state rivals visit in less than two months.

But the fans won’t come because they’re living and dying with every baseball win. They’ll be there because the games have become an experience.

That goes for the team as well. “It definitely helps when you’ve got a crowd behind you, getting into the game,” junior center fielder Kes Carter said.

More than anything, fans just want something they feel is worth getting behind.

And right now, baseball’s making the best case.

SENATE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

She said Kentucky university presidents are determined to get every member of the House in favor of the bill.

“We have firm commitments from many already,” Taylor said.

President Gary Ransdell said if passed, the program would have a huge impact on pre-physical therapy students at WKU since now only two universities in the state — the University of Kentucky and Bellarmine University — offer professional doctorate of physical therapy programs.

More than 260 students at WKU are pursuing the pre-physical therapy option along with their undergraduate degrees, according to WKU’s Doctor of Physical Therapy Book.

“We would be able to accommodate

many of those students,” Ransdell said.

Beginning fall 2012, WKU would enroll 30 students annually in the program, focusing study on rural and underserved areas of western Kentucky.

Ransdell said the physical therapy community is now requiring a doctorate degree for entry-level therapists, but there are current therapists who wish to earn a doctorate in the field.

“This will impact physical therapists currently residing in the central and western portions of Kentucky who want to get the new licensure credential,” Ransdell said.

Right now, physical therapists are in high demand, Ransdell said.

“Rehab clinics and hospitals across this region are unable to fill vacancies,” he said. “There’s a much greater demand than there is supply for physical therapists.

“It’s all about healthcare for Kentuckians.”

NEWS BRIEFS

No WKU students involved in shooting last Thursday

WKU students were not involved in a shooting Thursday night at College Suites apartments, 2426 Thoroughbred Drive.

Joshua Wickware, 22, was arrested and charged with evading police after he shot Shawn Greene, 20, and attempted to run from police, according to Monica Woods, public information officer for Bowling Green Police Department.

Though College Suites is home to many WKU students, neither Wickware nor Greene are listed in the school directory.

Wickware was released from jail on a \$1,000 cash bond.

According to the Bowling Green Daily News, Wickware is scheduled to appear before Warren District Judge Brent Potter on Wednesday for a pretrial conference.

Herald reporter Mike Stunson witnessed the shooting and said Greene, who was unidentified at the time, was loaded onto a stretcher at the scene while holding his waist. Stunson later gave a statement to police.

Greene’s condition and location are still unknown at this time.

Police originally received a complaint at 10:26 p.m. about a fight at College Suites, Woods said. She said police received a report minutes later about the shooting.

Beth Hansen, property manager at College Suites, said on Friday that she doesn’t have enough information right now to decide on actions that “may or may not be necessary” in terms of the apartment complex’s future.

“It’s definitely an unfortunate situation, but it really isn’t anything I could have prevented,” she said. “I don’t think anyone could prevent an incident like that.”

Hansen encouraged College Suites residents with further concerns to contact her.

— Lindsay Kriz & Jonathan Lintner

— Mike Stunson

SWING

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

WKU needed to win both games and must now win its remaining two contests just to finish the regular season with a .500 record. The Lady Toppers also needed to win three out of their final four games in order to claim a No. 2 seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

A No. 2 seed would guarantee them a first-round bye and allow them to play three games in three days, rather than four games in four days, in order to win the conference tournament.

All of that considered, Cowles said the players didn’t look at their Arkansas road swing as a must-win situation, but more of a chance to make a statement.

“I think our team just got sick and tired of not getting it done and just grabbed each other’s hands,” Cowles said. “They are very knowledgeable of the fact that we haven’t played the kind of basketball that we’re capable of playing.

“It’s that time of year. It’s now or never. This was just a situation where they said, ‘Look, we’ve got to get this done.’”

Howard departed as the team leader in points per game, 3-point percentage and blocks. While her absence left some big shoes to fill, junior forward Keisha Mosley said WKU didn’t look to just one person to fill her spot.

SGA to vote on DUC resolution

After months of debate, the resolution to support the Downing University Center renovation project will be up for approval at tonight’s Student Government Association meeting.

Campus Improvements Chair Kaylee Egerer said she is excited this part of the renovation project is coming to a close.

“I think everybody is just kind of past the whole thing,” she said. “Everybody is ready to implement the changes and put it on paper.”

President Colton Jessie said he doesn’t expect much debate at meeting about the resolution.

“Talking to people who have put the revisions together, they seem pretty positive about the bill,” Jessie said.

Renovations to DUC would call for a \$70 student fee per semester until the debt is paid off, according to the proposed resolution.

The resolution first came to the senate in November, but when Jessie decided more student input was needed to continue, SGA tabled it until this semester. Since then, senators have viewed other universities’ student centers as well as having a campaign in DUC to spread the word about the renovation.

Egerer said the new resolution fixed problems and discrepancies the past resolution had.

“A lot of debate went on back in November, but by now the problems have been addressed,” Egerer said.

If the bill is approved tonight, head architect Jeff Stivers will then begin designing and drawing out how the renovation will look.

Egerer said construction will begin in the fall at the latest, but there is a chance it will begin in May.

“We will have to jump through the right hoops to be ready by May, but it is possible,” she said.

Instead, she said the team gained a new sense of unity.

“We’ve been stressing ‘hold the rope,’ which means hold each other accountable in practice,” Mosley said. “If somebody’s doing anything wrong, we pick that person up and let them know about their mistakes. We’ve been more together and more focused in practice.

“We all just have to come out playing our hardest. Yeah, we miss Janae, but we just have to keep moving forward from that.”

Both wins were convincing for the Lady Toppers. They never trailed by more than two in either game and were virtually in control the entire way.

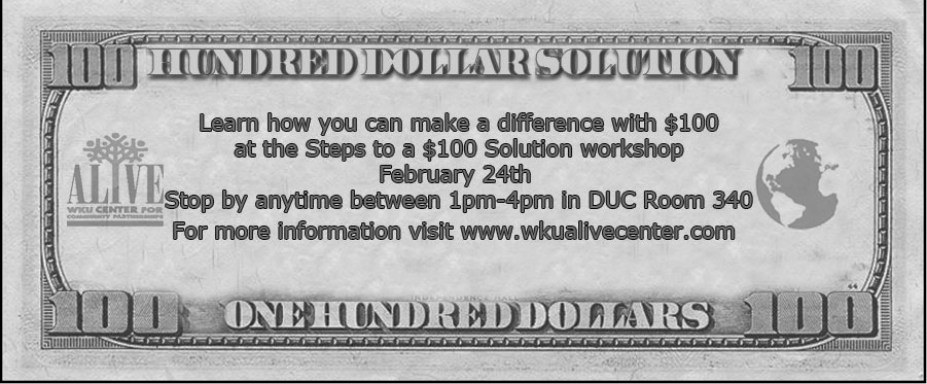
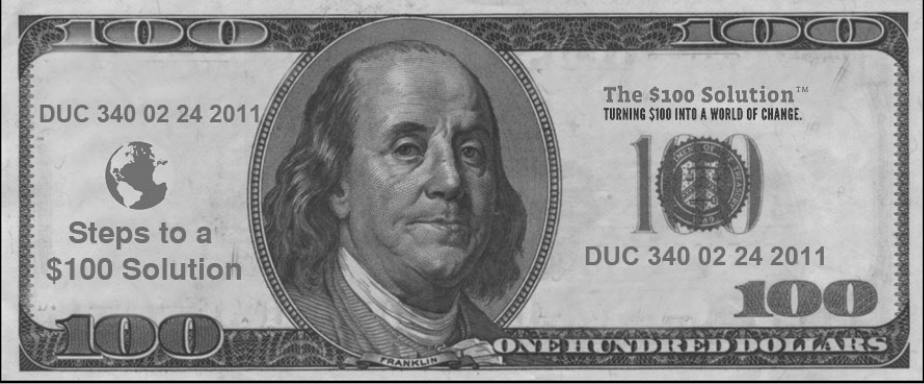
They also shot better from the field than their opponent in both games and out-rebounded their foe by more than 20 each game.


Against ULL on Saturday, WKU won the rebounding battle, 52-25.

Junior forward LaTeira Owens said that’s what the Lady Toppers are capable of when they play well for 40 minutes, with or without Howard.

“We know we’re a team. That’s what people don’t know about us,” she said. “We did this as a team effort, and that’s what we’re going to do for the rest of the season.”

The Lady Toppers host Florida International on Wednesday for their final home game of the season. Seniors Hope Brown, Arnika Brown and Amy McNear will be recognized for Senior Night.





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SWIMMING & DIVING

Swim teams ready for Sun Belt championships

By LUCAS AULBACH
sports@cherald.com

The moment of truth is quickly approaching for the WKU swimming and diving teams, with the Sun Belt Conference Championships taking place this week.

The event starts Wednesday morning, and competition will last through Saturday.

Head Coach Bruce Marchionda said the event is at the Rockwall Aquatic Center in Dallas, a neutral location close to host North Texas' campus. He said the teams will be in Texas for almost a week.

"We're leaving Monday night, competing Wednesday through Saturday and coming back on Sunday," he said.

Marchionda said in the weeks since the teams' last regular season meet, team members have been decreasing the intensity of their workouts in preparation for the championships, a process known as "tapering."

"Basically we're trying to come down in yardage and work on some

smaller details," Marchionda said.

The last competition the teams were in was on Jan. 29 against Southern Illinois, wrapping up an impressive regular season in which the teams prevailed in every competition but one early season meet.

Senior Claire Donahue has been to three conference championships in her time at WKU and said the teams' goals won't change despite the bigger stage.

"We're hoping to do the same thing we always want to do — win," she said. "That's been our goal all season."

Senior David Menchinger has also been to three Sun Belt championships as a Topper and will be competing in several events over the course of the week, including the 200-meter backstroke and 500 freestyle, which he won at every meet this season.

"One important thing is to stay calm before the race," he said.

Donahue is competing in several individual and team events over the course of the four-day competition. She cited 50 freestyle, 400 relay, and

the 100- and 200-meter butterfly as some of her most important events.

Donahue owns the school record for both the 100 and 200 fly.

She also stressed the importance of starting off each day on the right foot, saying that the early events can set the tone for the day.

"One of the things we have to do as a team is swim fast in the morning," she said. "(Marchionda) always says swimming well in the morning wins championships."

While this will be the last time both teams will be performing in their entirety, Marchionda said one of the biggest goals of the conference championships is to get more individuals to post times that qualify for the NCAA National Championships in March.

"Nationals are based on times, not teams," Marchionda said. "We're trying to get some more individuals to the championship this year."

Menchinger said while the teams are in for a long week, he's confident in everyone.

"It's going to be tough," he said. "But we're going for it."

SOFTBALL

Lady Tops open home schedule with Eastern

By NICK BRATCHER
sports@cherald.com

The Lady Toppers will try to get going sooner rather than later this week after struggling in the early innings of their opening weekend.

WKU (3-2) plays its home opener Wednesday at the WKU Softball Complex against Eastern Kentucky in a doubleheader at 1 p.m.



DEW

When asked what would be the key to victory against ECU, both Head Coach Tyra Perry and sophomore infielder Karavin Dew said the Lady Toppers have to "play their game."

But what does that look like?

Dew described it as success at the plate, in the field and early in the game.

"When we play our game, we're prepared and start strong with hits everywhere and great defense," she said. "No one has seen it this year yet, but they will."

WKU struggled early in games at the Gaucho Classic two weekends ago, failing to score in the first three innings in each of its losses.

Freshman Amanda Thomas said the kind of effort the Lady Toppers want starts before the first pitch is thrown.

"We're a young team, so we have to overcome that slow start," she said. "We have to get our minds mentally prepared before the game and get pumped up and stay focused."

"We've been working on coming out strong instead of waiting until the

later innings to start hitting and making plays."

Righting the aggression ship isn't going to be an easy task with such a young team. In their last game, the Lady Toppers started just two upperclassmen.

Perry said the unknown of the early innings mixed with the team's youth has definitely presented a problem early this season.

"They get nervous pretty quickly," she said. "The young players just haven't experienced that much yet, so the unknown just makes them a little more jittery than a veteran team."

But being a young squad can have its advantages as well.

Although the Lady Toppers were projected eighth out of nine Sun Belt Conference teams preseason, Thomas said she likes that teams overlook them because it adds an element of surprise.

"We have heard that people don't really know about us, and they're underestimating us a lot," she said. "We're trying to take that as an advantage and surprise them a little bit."

Perry said she embraces the team's youthful enthusiasm and desire to win.

"They're excited about everything — even warming up — and have a pure sense of wanting to win," she said. "They're just out there playing ball."

Perry also said the team is making progress. She said she noticed the team starting to settle down during the Gaucho Classic and hopes that evolution will continue Wednesday.

"At the end of the tournament we were getting the clutch hits to score runners in scoring position, even in the late innings," she said. "We just have to continue that."

SWEEP

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

"We put some pressure on people, got our bunts down and did the fundamental things you have to do to win," Finwood said following Sunday's 12-3 WKU victory. "The bats are definitely different, so that's something you'll just have to learn how to play with."

WKU didn't hit a home run during the series.

But junior second baseman Ivan Hartle and sophomore first baseman Ryan Huck helped illustrate the Toppers' new approach at the plate.

Hartle, in his first series at WKU, dropped three sacrifice bunts, while Huck hit three sacrifice flies.

"Our team has done a great job of getting runners on base and moving runners into scoring position," Huck said.

Sparkling the WKU batting order was leadoff hitter Jared Andreoli.

The junior left fielder hit .500 for the series, had four RBIs, scored

four runs and stole two bases.

Adding power to the middle of the Topper lineup was junior right fielder Ryan Hutchison, a newcomer who hit fourth in the order in all three games.

A junior college teammate of Hartle, Hutchison hit .417 for the series with five RBIs.

"Hutch is that guy in the middle that maybe we didn't have last year," Finwood said. "And that can change the lineup around."

Team depth has been a big talking point for Finwood leading up to this season.

Nowhere was the team's new depth more evident than at the designated hitter.

Finwood started senior Chris Bullard at DH on Friday, senior Matt Bracken on Saturday and sophomore Matt Borgschulte on Sunday.

Hitting out of the last spot in the



HUCK

order, each got at least one hit.

Borgschulte especially thrived, going 4-for-4 in the series' final game.

Finwood said he expects the three players to rotate through the spot based on day-to-day matchups, but he anticipates keeping the spot last in the order.

"It's a bit unusual to have your DH hitting ninth," Finwood said. "But because our lineup is so strong up to that point, that may just be where it falls for us."

A deep, effective lineup will be especially key for WKU this season because of the team's inexperienced starting pitchers.

Finwood's weekend rotation against BGSU consisted of sophomores Tanner Perkins and Taylor Haydel and freshman Justin Hageman.

Hageman, who earned his first career win Sunday, said it helped to have a lineup that was so explosive.

"There's not one easy out on our team," Hageman said. "I'd rather have any one of them at the plate than any of our opponents."

CROOK

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

"I'm just trying to help the team out, get guys open shots, create for others," Crook said. "I'm just trying to be that point-guard floor general."

Crook's matched that nine-assist total two more times since then, including back-to-back games against North Texas and Florida Gulf Coast.

After the win over FGCU, sophomore guard Caden Dickerson largely credited Crook's distribution of the basketball for the success of the offense.

"We shot the ball pretty well," Dickerson said. "Jamal and Kahlil were able to dissect the defense and get us all shots, and that was what kind of kept us in the game."

But Crook has also started to show that he can make shots just as easily as create them.

Although he's averaging less than four points per game this season, he's averaged

eight in the Toppers' last three contests.

His season high of nine points came last Thursday against Arkansas-Little Rock, where his layup at the buzzer propelled WKU to a 61-59 win.

Crook said he wasn't used to being the one that comes through in the clutch, and he told WKU's Big Red Radio after the game that he hadn't hit a game-winning shot since the seventh grade.

"I was really cutting down to the basket, hoping they didn't see me," Crook said. "I

was right there at the right time."

And McDonald said he hopes the Toppers can continue to rely on Crook for the rest of the season.

After struggling with consistency at point guard all season, McDonald said Crook is one of the biggest reasons WKU has turned its season around.

"He's handled it really well at a crucial time," he said. "At a time when we were desperate for a guard to step up, he's answered the bell."

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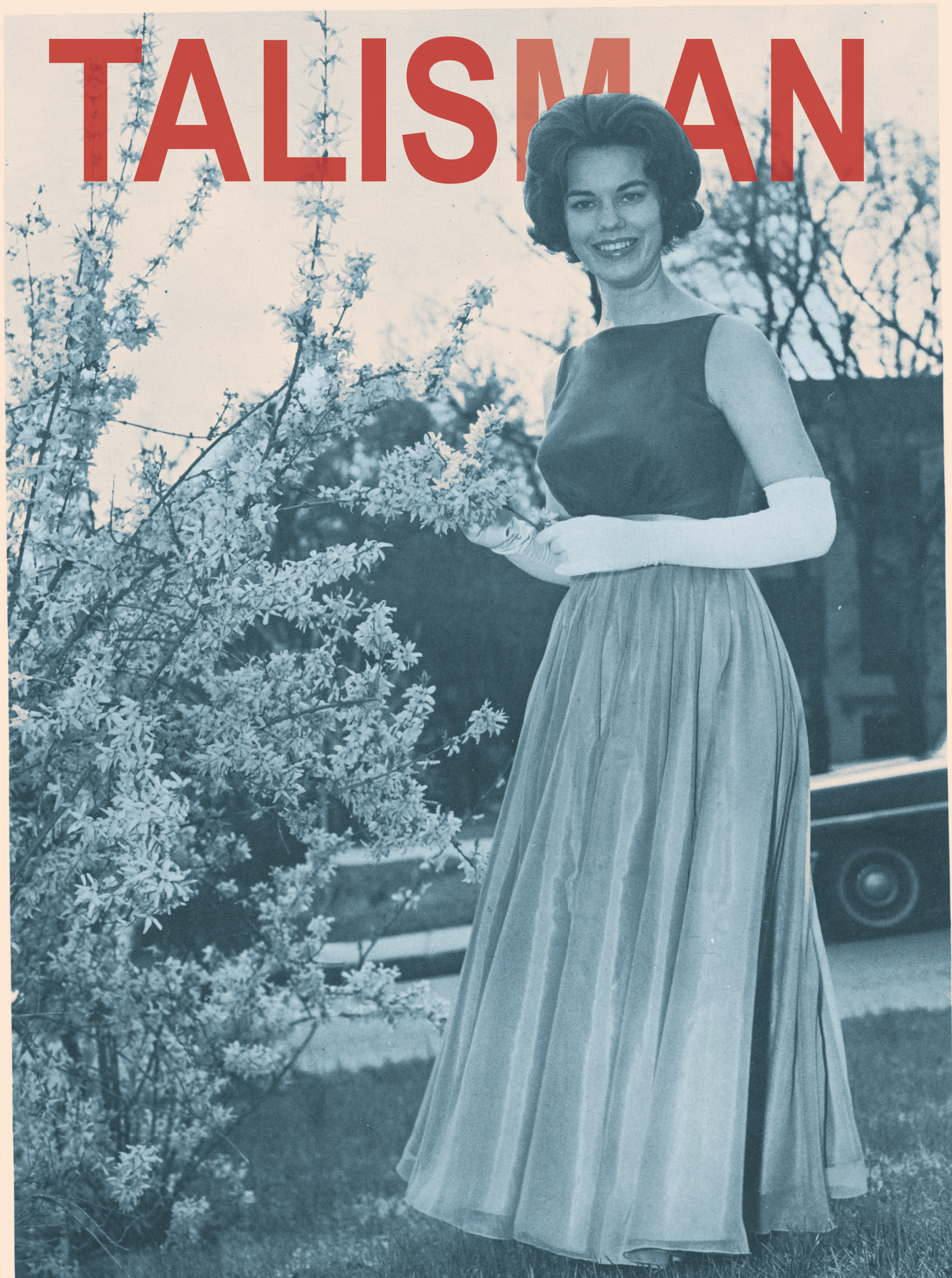
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BASEBALL



Junior Logan Robbins hits a line drive toward third base, almost hitting junior Kes Carter during Sunday's game against Bowling Green State. The Toppers won 12-3, sweeping BGSU in three games during their opening weekend.

RYAN STONE/HERALD

COLUMN

Tops baseball offering best ticket in town

Baseball weather came early this year, and so did the crowds at Nick Denes Field. Good thing, because these Toppers are once again worth seeing.

WKU picked up a clean sweep of Bowling Green State during its opening weekend, pounding the Falcons to the tune of 32 runs in three games.

It seems all too familiar, as a lineup that was largely the same shot out of the gate last season with a surprisingly explosive offense.

This kind of repetition is a good thing.

Plenty has been made of the fact that baseball's attendance has soared with Head Coach Chris Finwood at the helm.

But you can take that even one step further. Baseball has become, at least for the foreseeable future, the best athletic fan experience on campus.

That's not to say men's basketball isn't still king on the Hill, with football coming behind.

But as far as who's putting out the best product, baseball takes the throne.

That's not exactly music to the ears of WKU's administration, which would prefer the "money sports" produce the best atmosphere.

At most schools, football reigns supreme. It may one day at WKU, but that day isn't today.

Tailgating still has plenty of kinks that stifle game-day atmosphere, and the results on the field still have some catching up to do to the resources WKU football has at its disposal.

In the meantime, baseball has crept in as the social sport on campus.

A sizable crowd packed onto the first-base deck for Sunday's game, combining beer, food and fun on one of the first pleasant days of 2011.

And you can bet more will come as spring truly rolls in along with better competition.

Finwood was the first to admit Sunday that the pitching the Toppers faced against BGSU last weekend wasn't the cream of the crop.



ZACH GREENWELL
Press Row Perspective
sports@chherald.com

Leading Off

Deep Topper lineup provides plenty of offense in weekend sweep

By BRAD STEPHENS
sports@chherald.com

Usually pitchers get an early-season advantage, while hitters take a few weeks to get calibrated.

But that wasn't the case for WKU's offense on its opening weekend, as the Toppers scored 32 total runs in a three-game sweep of Bowling Green State at Nick Denes Field.

Nine different Toppers had at least one RBI during the weekend, while 12 players recorded hits.

Head Coach Chris Finwood said some of the success could be attributed to subpar Falcon pitching, but he was still pleased by the performance of his offense and its ability to adapt to the new NCAA bat rules.

The new rules, which called for changes in bat design, were created to increase player safety and keep scoring down.

That means Finwood will be relying on his team to play more "small ball" this season, with an emphasis on moving runners over and stealing bases.

SEE SWEEP, PAGE 6

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Tops improve on road swing

By COLE CLAYBOURN
sports@chherald.com

It's never easy to guess how a team will respond when it loses its top scorer.

But if this past week is any indication, the loss of sophomore forward Janae Howard may not be affecting the Lady Toppers all that much.

For the first time this season, the Lady Toppers (12-14, 9-5 Sun Belt Conference) won two straight road games, including a win over UALR — the Sun Belt's top team — and a 20-point win over Louisiana-Lafayette.

Head Coach Mary Taylor Cowles said it was a "huge advancement" for WKU to win back-to-back road games at this point in the season.

"It's a very important time as we're heading down the stretch here and trying to get things figured out for the (conference) tournament," she said. "We've been very, very focused, and our defense has been solid. Offensively, we've just had people step up and score. And rebounding has continued to be a strength of ours."

SEE SWING, PAGE 5

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Crook settling into leadership role

By ZACH GREENWELL
sports@chherald.com

After a win over Florida Gulf Coast last week, Jamal Crook was asked a question that made him let out a chuckle.

The sophomore guard was asked if there are any NBA point guards that he models his game after, and one quickly came to mind — Boston Celtics star Rajon Rondo.

"I kind of watch him a lot, so I guess I kind of act like him," Crook said with a smile.

It should come as no surprise that Crook admires Rondo. The two both grew up in Louisville, and Crook admitted the way their wiry frames move around the basketball court is similar.

And in much the way Rondo seemed to emerge as Boston's leader in a flash, Crook's ascension has been just as fast with the Toppers.

"You're seeing a total change in his play from even a month and a half ago," Head Coach Ken McDonald



CHRIS WILSON/HERALD

Sophomore guard Jamal Crook signals to his teammates on offense during WKU's home game against North Texas in January. Crook has started the last seven games for WKU at point guard.

said. "A lot of it is confidence with Jamal, and obviously experience plays a big role."

Crook has started the last seven games for WKU (13-14, 7-7 Sun Belt Conference) after largely splitting the

point guard duties with junior guard Kahlil McDonald before that.

But his breakout began while he was still coming off the bench, including a career-high nine assists against Troy

on Jan. 22.

Crook has recorded 64 assists in WKU's last 11 games, averaging nearly six per game.

SEE CROOK, PAGE 6